

said catheter comprising a puncturing element having a retracted position in which said puncturing element does not puncture said vessel wall, at least a portion of said puncturing element being housed in a portion of said catheter when said puncturing element is in said retracted position;

a restraint coupled to said catheter and holding said puncturing element in said retracted position;

said puncturing element further having a puncturing position in which said puncturing element engages and punctures said vessel wall, said puncturing element being substantially non-parallel with respect to said portion of said catheter when said puncturing element is in said puncturing position;

said puncturing element automatically moving from said retracted position to said puncturing position when said restraint is released; and

delivery means coupled to said catheter [for] and delivering a drug [outside the inner surface of the vessel wall] through a puncture in the vessel wall.

16. (once amended) The [invention] device defined in Claim 15 wherein said delivery means further comprises an injection device coupled to said inner shaft lumen for injecting fluid through said inner shaft lumen.

32. (once amended) A method of treating a vessel having a vessel wall with an inner surface, the method comprising the steps of:

inserting a catheter having a vessel puncturing element disposed therein into a substantially tubular vessel;

positioning the puncturing element at the site in the vessel to be treated;

inflating an inflatable compartment adjacent said puncturing element to thereby [applying] apply an adjacent force adjacent said puncturing element to move said puncturing element in a direction substantially non-parallel with respect to a portion of said catheter that contains said puncturing element, said adjacent force

moving said puncturing element from a retracted position to a puncturing position.

33.(once amended) The method of claim 32 further comprising the step of puncturing the vessel wall with the puncturing element [at the site to be treated with the puncturing element].

38.(once amended) The method of claim [32] 34 wherein the step of applying said force moves said puncturing element a predetermined distance such that said drug is delivered to [the] an outer surface of the vessel wall.

39.(once amended) The method of claim [32] 34 wherein the step of delivering the drug comprises delivery of the drug into tissue surrounding the vessel wall.

40.(once amended) The method of claim [32] 34 wherein the step of delivering the drug comprises the step of delivering a drug in a time release module.

41.(once amended) The method of claim [32] 34 wherein the delivery means includes said puncturing element having a drug delivery lumen and wherein the step of delivering the drug comprises delivering the drug through the drug delivery lumen.

42.(once amended) A drug delivery device for treating a vessel having a vessel wall with an inner surface, the device comprising:

an elongated catheter adapted to be inserted into the vessel;  
said catheter comprising a puncturing element having a retracted position in which said puncturing element does not puncture said vessel wall, at least a portion of said puncturing element being housed in a portion of said catheter when said puncturing element is in said retracted position;

said puncturing element further having a puncturing position in which said puncturing element engages and punctures said vessel wall, said puncturing element being substantially non-parallel with respect to said portion of said catheter when said puncturing element is in said puncturing position;

a movable surface comprising an inflatable compartment coupled to said catheter and adjacent said puncturing element to contact

and move said puncturing element from said retracted position to said puncturing position when said movable surface is moved toward said puncturing element.

43.(once amended) The device of claim 42 wherein [said movable surface is part of an inflatable compartment, and] said movable surface is moved toward said puncturing element by inflating said inflatable compartment.

46.(once amended) The device defined in claim 44 wherein [said catheter further comprises]:

said inflatable compartment comprises an inflatable balloon [coupled to said catheter]; and

an inflation lumen [extending] extends through said catheter for delivering inflation fluid to said balloon.

50.(once amended) The [invention] device defined in claim 49 wherein said delivery means further comprises an injection device coupled to said inner shaft lumen for injecting fluid through said inner shaft lumen.

53.(once amended) The [method] device of claim 44 wherein said drug comprises an antiproliferative drug for the treatment of restenosis.

54.(once amended) The [method] device of claim 44 wherein said drug comprises an antiproliferative drug for the treatment of vascular disease.

55.(once amended) The [method] device of claim 44 wherein said drug comprises a specific inhibitor of cellular proliferation.

56.(once amended) The [method] device of claim 44 wherein said drug comprises a specific inhibitor of thrombin.

57.(once amended) The [method] device of claim 44 wherein said drug comprises a specific inhibitor of platelets.

58.(once amended) The [method] device of claim 44 wherein said drug comprises a genetic material.

59.(once amended) The [method] device of claim 44 wherein said drug comprises a genetic material that when incorporated into cells results in the expression of therapeutic materials.